

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 28-38 are pending. Claims 4-27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

As for the drawings, the attached substitute sheets include the changes approved in the office action of 9 April 2003. That is, reference number 5 has been added to indicate the drive belt in FIG. 1. This is consistent with a similar change made to the specification. In FIGS. 2 and 5, the cross hatching has been changed to indicate resin. Also, in FIG. 5, reference character 13d has been changed to 13b. In addition, reference numeral 14h has been added to FIGS. 4 and 5. No new matter has been added. Note that reference number 14h has also been added to the specification to refer to a connecting member.

Claims 3 and 28 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, due to the phrase "the hole reduces a cross-sectional area of the torque transmitting member perpendicular to the rotating direction." This phrase has been removed from claims 3 and 8; therefore, the rejection of claims 3 and 28 under section 112 should be withdrawn.

Claim 33 was rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as being indefinite due to the phrase "said member." Claim 33 has been amended to clarify that the member being referred to is the member disposed between said first rotor and the driving source. Claim 33 is believed to be fully definite, and the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 33 under section 112.

Claims 1, 2, and 29-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suito *et al.* ('943). Amended claims 1 and 2 now recite a plurality of pairs of torque transmitting members located between the first rotor and the second rotor for transmitting the torque in the rotating direction to the second rotor. Amended claims 1 and 2 further recite that each pair of torque transmitting members is constructed such that the torque transmitting members of the pair are joined together. In comparison to separate torque transmitting members, the paired torque transmitting members recited in claims 1 and 2 allow easy handling and installation and thus reduce installation time, since the torque transmitting members of each pair are joined and thus can be installed to the torque transmitting apparatus at once. Therefore, this feature would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The paired torque transmitting members recited in claims 1 and 2 are not disclosed or suggested by Suito *et al.* ('943) nor any other cited reference. Thus, claims 1 and 2 are believed to be patentable. Since claims 29-35 depend from claim 1, which is believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above, claims 29-35 should also be in condition for allowance.

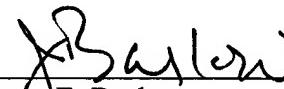
Claims 3 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suito in view of Goldschmidt *et al.* ('705). Since claim 3 depends from claim 2, which is believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above, claim 3 should also be in condition for allowance. Similarly, claim 28 depends from claim 1, which is believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above. Thus claim 28 should be allowable.

Claims 36-38 are new. Claims 36-38 depend on claim 1, which is believed to be allowable as discussed above; thus, claims 36-38 should also be in condition for allowance.

In view of the forgoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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